

anarchist **freedom**

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Heath's 'Cure' for Strikes

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However, Mr. Heath's Tories are not the only party that wants some form of sanction. Mr. Wilson had had similar proposals which were only withdrawn at the last minute, because of political and trade union opposition and the TUC proposals were accepted instead.

Plans for restricting trade union activity are by no means new. Governments are always trying to curtail the power and independence of any organisation which threatens them. The trade union movement is a long way from this position, but nevertheless successive governments have wished to bring it to heel.

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seen as a threat, because it has long since joined the hierarchy of power which is a part of the ruling class and the State. Governments and those aspiring to that position are concerned with the power of the men and women on the shop floor, the people who do the actual physical and mental work which produces the wealth of this country. Under this profit-orientated society, government after government have failed to convince workers, at least for any length of time, that they have a stake in this massive industrial complex. It is always the workers who are endangering the economy when they seek a wage increase. Everything is subordinated and geared to higher profit margins.

Mr. Heath's proposals for legislation, if the Tories are elected, are

important because they aim to curb unofficial strikes and make it possible for employers to seek damages. His 'Registrar of Trade Unions and Employers Associations' and the suggested special industrial courts are similar to those in existence in America. Binding agreements, which also apply in the States, are another Tory suggestion, but these are so often qualified with clauses for a 're-opener' that they can become meaningless.

Although America loses about five times as much production in proportion to the working population as this country, the strikes there are of a different nature. They are usually longer, but predictable in that they usually occur when a union-employer contract expires. In many ways they are formal set-

pieces, with both sides acting out their roles after due preparation, the employer laying in a good supply of stocks and the union building up a good strike fund. The strikes here are short, unpredictable and very damaging. These numerous sharp pin-pricks affect far more workers than those actually in dispute and so the employers are constantly looking over their shoulder for the next 'wildcat'.

While governments in Britain are trying to curtail this form of action, American workers have recently resorted to it, in spite of the possibility of fines. The recent postmen's strike there was a good example and it is growing in other industries. It is a symptom of the gulf which exists between the trade union leaders and their members.

Mr. Heath has said that legislation would not mean the ending of workers, but this is so much rubbish. If workers, who were fired for an unofficial strike, refuse pay, then imprisonment could result. This sort of thing would not surprise anyone since the State will go to extreme as the last resort, and even further if necessary, to achieve its aims. If it can get what it wants 'kid glove' means, it will, but if resistance, independence and will to struggle of the workers are strong, then harsher means will be adopted. Capital will defend its exploiting position by any and every means in its power.

P.T.

POSTSCRIPT

by Sk

The Lesser Evil

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drunken driver on a mad elephant who believes he is still in charge, the left-wing Labour Party worker is under a permanent illusion. At his worst when he is passing revolutionary resolutions he can be shown as an example of Labour Party democracy, at his best when he is a steady plodding party worker he is creating an institution which

'LEAVE IT TO ME, HAROLD!'



anarchist weekly

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Our ambidextrous political friends have obviously prepared early for their enteritis. We are no doubt going to be informed that we anarchists are 'rocking the boat' (wot boat?) and threatened

The Lesser Evil

with the return of the Tories and/or Enoch Powell to power. We are going to be reminded that when it comes to it (if it ever does), Harold Wilson's ideas are nearer to Socialism than the Tories. We are going to be threatened with conscription, thirteen years of Tory rule, unemployment, slums (we've got them already!) and fallen arches if we don't vote Labour. If all else fails and they must get our vote somehow (why don't they try *buying* it?), they will try the chummy philosophical approach—after all, the Labour Party is the lesser of two evils.

On such a ticket was L.B.J. elected, Stalin maintained power, Hitler got into

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KANGEROO COURT AT LIVERPOOL

THE MOST SEVERE set of sentences ever imposed on militant students in a British University were dished out at Liverpool last week.

As a reprisal against the recent occupation of the administrative block for two weeks over racialism and secrecy in the University, the administration expelled one student, suspended two for one year, and suspended seven for two years.

The ten—sentenced after a week of trials before the University disciplinary board—were picked out of over 300 students who took part in the sit-in. The trials themselves dissolved the myth of the University as a liberal institution: the University employed a leading barrister to prosecute, probably at a cost of around £1,500, and cut short students' statements, refused evidence and barred certain witnesses.

The University developed the prosecution fully, often using inaccurate (and laughable) evidence. In the first trial, the University took seven hours to present its case, and then allowed the defendant one hour to present his case, plus ten minutes to sum up all the evidence. This was a Kangaroo court of the most shameful kind.

The two-week occupation was the culmination of a long campaign, the aims of which were encapsulated in four demands:

(1) The resignation, as Chancellor of the University, of Lord Salisbury, founder of the Monday Club, nationally-known racist and defender of the apartheid regimes in Rhodesia and South

Africa. He has business connections with South Africa and has said: 'There are, of course, some extremely intelligent Africans . . . but the great majority are still extremely primitive, and they are not yet ready for full Parliamentary democracy.'

This man, the occupation said, should not be head of a multi-racial University.

(2) The University should reveal where its investments lie. The business connections on the governing Council, and Salisbury's position, led to the suspicion that the University was involved in institutionalized support for racism via investments in companies with apartheid connections.

(3) The Vice-Chancellor to give a satisfactory answer on chemical and biological warfare contracts undertaken at Liverpool University. He denied the existence of contracts, but there is evidence in Hansard of two contracts.

(4) A public inquiry should be set up to investigate the keeping of political files.

The University probably thinks that the savage sentences will repress further activity at Liverpool. Nothing could be further from the truth. Support is coming in from factories, building sites and tenants' groups in the area. The local Trades Council is to send a deputation to the Vice-Chancellor to condemn the University's action in the strongest possible terms. Activists on the campus are planning new moves in the campaign for next term, which begins on Monday.

LIVERPOOL STUDENT.

Back to Cable

PAKISTANIS IN LONDON'S East End have become alarmed at the outbreak of violence and intimidation directed against their race culminating last week in the death by stabbing of a Pakistani in the East End. The Pakistanis through their organizations, including the Pakistani Progressive Party, allege that the police and the Government are failing to give them the protection they need and are contemplating setting up vigilante and bodyguard groups to give them help. It is alleged that the attacks are the work of 'skinheads', but the police deny that the skinheads were responsible for the stabbing and the police are not in favour of the setting up of vigilante groups since the police claim that it would lead to gang warfare.

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The voting leftists think up in what ways the Tories would be worse. This takes a bit of doing but they go back to Munich, the Thirties and Tonypandy and this cheers them up for the double-crossings, the indignities and the insults of the Labour Government which they helped to elect.

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They are eternal optimists. 'Make the Left Fight', 'Wilson Must Go', they chant. (Anyone who believed that Trotsky would be any better than Stalin would be an optimist—or an idiot—or maybe both!)

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We must abandon the 'lesser evil' idea of voting in favour of the 'greater good' idea of individual personal responsibility, initiative and direct action. The curse of the progressive movements is the between-wars pacifist, the between-property-deals-socialist and the between-elections anarchist.

JACK ROBINSON.

Back to Cable Street?

PAKISTANIS IN LONDON'S East End have become alarmed at the outbreak of violence and intimidation directed against their race culminating last week in the death by stabbing of a Pakistani in the East End. The Pakistanis through their organizations, including the Pakistani Progressive Party, allege that the police and the Government are failing to give them the protection they need and are contemplating setting up vigilante and bodyguard groups to give them help. It is alleged that the attacks are the work of 'skinheads', but the police deny that the skinheads were responsible for the stabbing and the police are not in favour of the setting up of vigilante groups since the police claim that it would lead to gang warfare.

It is well known that the skinheads are 'out for trouble'. The boredom of urban life scarcely relieved by aggravations at football matches and seaside resorts

leads to them roving the streets in groups seeking for a quick thrill in a spot of bother. It is untrue to say, as one Pakistani did, that 'they are unemployed by choice'. Most skinheads appear to be employed, clean, 'respectable'-looking and show no hate for West Indians, who often go around with the gangs. (A recent killing at Brixton involved a 'skinhead'-type gang completely made up of West Indians.) Their hatred is directed to those who are 'different' or trespassing on their territory. This hatred seems to be engendered by a daily grind of dead-end jobs. It has no political overtones, unless a Hitler or Mosley arises to lead them. Enoch Powell couldn't stand them, nor they him.

Unfortunately the Pakistanis have absorbed the worst of English culture—a respect for law and order and somewhat of a belief in the promises of politicians. Many lobbyists thought that the Race Relations Act would usher in a new era of racial harmony. However the workings

of the Act are slow and highly selective with detours into questions of Scots porridge cooks. This being election year and emigrants not being a substantial voting community, there is no incentive to action on this matter—contrarywise in fact.

The Pakistani Progressive Party have received offers of help with bodyguards from the Universal Coloured People's Association but have decided to wait (wisely or unwisely) and see what will be done. They have already taken the time-honoured step of lobbying Parliament but the next move, they say, is up to the Government.

The East End has long been the haven of immigrants from the Huguenots to the Jews fleeing from Tsarist persecution and now, the Pakistanis. It has eventually absorbed them but not without conflict. In the Thirties the East End rose in demonstration against Mosley and his racist ideas. Will the Pakistanis do the same?

J.R.

THE VISION of a final judgement day on which all wrongs will be righted and all scores settled, with, in addition, the subconscious allure of ultimate relief from the strain of continued contention and struggle, has festered in mankind's mind for centuries, and now at last it is possible (and some might say highly probable) that this feverish reverie could become a reality.

Michelangelo Antonioni's new film *Zabriskie Point* ponders on, and indeed finally shows, this auto-destructive process built into the weave of civilisation at its present stage in evolution, and the final effect is simultaneously both shocking and beautiful. The fascination of violence was hinted at long before Sigmund Freud (the much maligned Marquis de Sade having given his name to a philosophy he exposed rather than advocated), and it has figured in art on countless occasions. In the cinema, Luis Bunuel's *L'Age D'Or* showed rows of buildings exploding 'sometimes on Sundays'. In 1962 Brigid Brophy finally got to grips with this flaw in mankind's makeup and her *Black Ship To Hell* closely analysed and explored this influence on civilisation and art.

Not that any of these appeals are heeded on a mass scale—man is still so vain and arrogant as to believe that he is still 'God's last word', which is

ZABRISKIE POINT

as good a reason for becoming an atheist as any I've ever heard! The agony of soul-searching that America is undergoing at this present time is essentially a middle class one, and a predominantly white one too.

Zabriskie Point is MGM's attempt to produce a property of the value of *Easy Rider*, and for me at least I find its message more meaningful and pertinent to everyday life in 1970. The story is so flimsy as to almost defy recounting—a young man on the run from a college demo that ended in a policeman being shot, takes a private airplane out in the Californian desert and there he meets a young girl who is driving to her employer's desert-mountain hideaway. Together they come to 'Zabriskie Point', a geological curiosity that is as arid as the moon, or as sterile as a post-nuclear landscape. There they make love and afterwards part—he returning

the plane and getting shot before he can get out of the cockpit, and she to her first destination, hearing the news of the young man's death on her car radio before she finally gets there. It is then that her thoughts and feelings crystallise into this votive vision of the entire swank hideaway property exploding and consuming itself with flames. All the trinkets of a materialistic consumer society are seen exploding and burning in slow motion in a storm of cosmic proportions. When her rage subsides everything is back in place undisturbed and the camera pans to rest on a burning and shimmering sunset that is both awesome and full of warning.

Is *Zabriskie Point* then a revolutionary film? The answer is both yes and no. The problems involved in making a large budget movie for a major company must restrict the director to a large degree, and judging from Antonioni's

previous output as a drop-out rather than one inclined to nihilism has of America today class liberals who they are a part of children.

Although it seems films which are something worthwhile not but help feel Hollywood of 'r movies is creating in which there is than meets the *Trip*, *Midnight* *briskie Point* are helplessness from created its own and now doesn't itself from its own it's encouraging it is beginning to show its own soul-searching is showing in an GLC area and elsewhere—it is the authorities about eroticism versiveness of id

BOOK REVIEW

The Other Love

THE OTHER LOVE by H. Montgomery Hyde. Heinemann, 60s.

THERE IS A SEQUENCE in this 'historical and contemporary survey of homosexuality in Britain' which is as revolting as anything I have ever read. Six unfortunate males, having been convicted for homosexual activities, were 'also condemned to stand for one hour in the pillory in the Haymarket, opposite Pantion Street. Here they were mercilessly pelted with brickbats, dead cats, rotten eggs, potatoes, mud and buckets filled with blood, offal and dung . . . and later . . . when the cart reached Temple Bar, the wretches were so thickly covered with mud that a vestige of the human figure was barely discernible . . . some of them were cut in the head with brickbats and bled profusely. . . . This was how the 'normal' citizens of nineteenth century Britain treated that minority who found their own sex more erotic and stimulating than that of the opposite sex. It was the same howling mob that finds its present day equivalent in the hangers and floggers and those persons who can truly be termed perverts who advocate castration and physical mutilation of those males convicted of homosexual contact.

It is a strange oddity of the human animal's psychology, that certain sexual taboos arouse more hatred and irrational emotion than violent outrages and it is still only a minority who despise cruelty and organised vengeance and are called cranks and fools for their pains. If it is regarded as wrong to suck a penis to orgasm, but perfectly OK to cut open and torment a living creature in a vivi-

Now that Science has become the new God that replaced Jehovah, a more tolerant attitude towards homosexuals exists, but there are still those who advocate shock therapy as a 'cure' and it is unfortunate that psychology had its roots in medicine, and thus created an attitude towards homosexuality of its being a 'disease'. The idea of pollution and contamination by contact persists in the minds of those who resist law reform, and many unleash their own sexual fantasies of sadism and cruelty when stating what they would do with 'queers'. We also saw recently young people whose imaginations were so starved of stimulus that they went out 'queer-bashing'. What they were trying to bash out of existence was their own homosexuality, as Sigmund Freud showed over sixty years ago, but society has still a long way to go before it can claim to have even begun to have integrated sexual minorities into its fold. Most readers of this paper one assumes to be men of the world, and common sense tells one that this myth of contamination is the biggest non-starter of them all—you can lead a horse to water, but it is very difficult to make it drink, and so with people they will always be aroused in the main by love-objects that produce an erection. Now whether this is a male or a female is neither here nor there.

The Church has always linked sexual pleasure with reproduction, which is about as logical as saying that we eat food simply to produce The Holy Shit. Wilhelm Reich showed clearly that the need for sexual release and pleasure is an almost daily urge, whereas there

valuable service to society in helping keep down the population of the world which, but for the hydrogen bomb (and that may yet come), would otherwise have been kept in check by sporadic wars and famines (which will also yet come).

The courage and bravery of Sigmund Freud who stumbled on dark regions of the mind that must have shocked him at the time, is often forgotten in these heady permissive times, and it was the cruelty and barbarism that resulted from the repression of the homosexual impulse that horrified his bourgeois but brave mind still more.

Since then other pioneers in the field of sexual education and psychology have increased public tolerance towards the sexual 'deviant', but it wasn't until 1962 with the publication of Brigid Brophy's remarkable *Black Ship To Hell* that the link between repressed homosexuality and barbarism was firmly and rationally established. In our own time, the pioneering work of the Albany Trust (which to their shame many a homosexual was too timid to support) has at least brought about legislative changes that prevent people being dragged through the courts and having their sexual habits described in detail for the heterosexual majority to enjoy reading about in their Sunday papers. Now, too, committees for homosexual equality are springing up to promote a more militant integration, for, like other minorities who are in a hostile environment the homosexual has a perfect right to his liberty and to pursue happiness in his or her own fashion.

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Aberdeen Labour Party Climbs Down

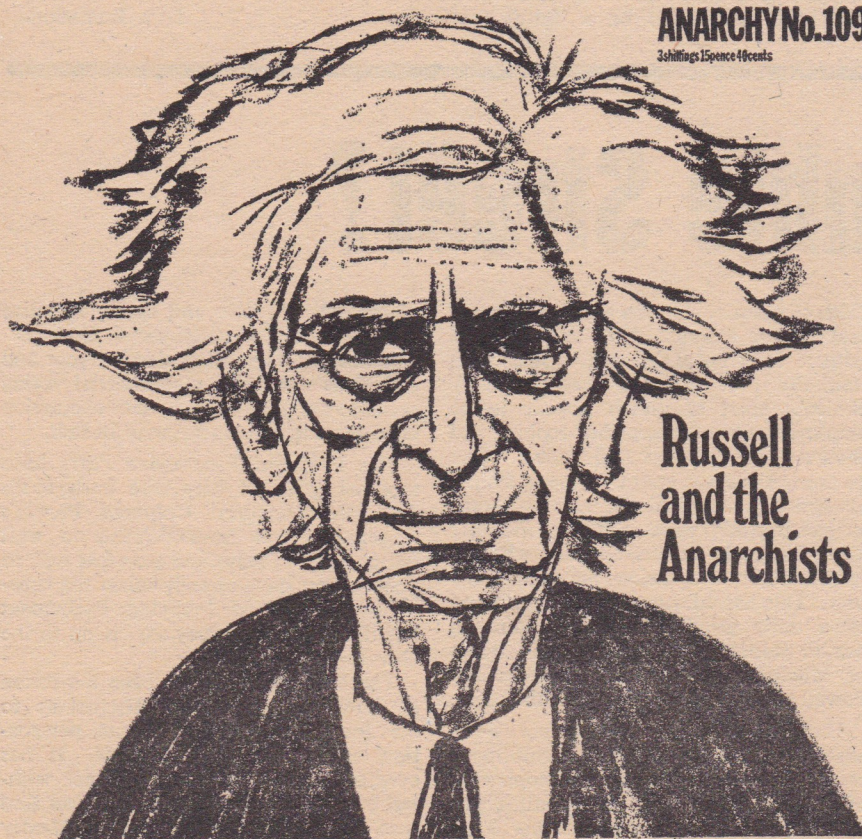
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At that meeting, it was clearly stated that no revision of the rebate scheme was intended—the old, the sick and the unemployed could either stomp up the 5/-, or crawl to the Ministry of Social Insecurity. As part of our campaign to force the Labour Council to grant a house to a 72-year-old man living in a rotting slum, we warned Labour Councillors that we intended to pass on the 'confidential' rents story to the local Tory Press.

A report on the 'possibility' of a rents increase (we would maintain that decision has *already* been taken) appeared in the *Press and Journal* last week. Lo and behold! Treasurer Lamond now promises that those unable to pay and on rebates will be 'looked after'. Scared of what we might do, Comrade Treasurer?

We may not be able to stop the increases, but we have, we suspect, saved some unemployed man or OAP, the sum of 5/-. And that, in its own small way, is a victory.

JIM SPRIGGS.



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Russell and the Anarchists

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RISKIE POINT

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Is *Zabriskie Point* then a revolutionary
film? The answer is both yes and no.
The problems involved in making a
large budget movie for a major company
must restrict the director to a large
degree, and judging from Antonioni's

previous output he is more classifiable
as a drop-out rather than a revolutionary,
and one is inclined to see the appeal
that nihilism has for the young people
of America today and the white middle
class liberals who see the Super State
they are a part of, devouring their own
children.

Although it seems churlish to put down
films which are even remotely saying
something worthwhile, I personally can-
not but help feel that the present trend in
Hollywood of 'radical' youth-orientated
movies is creating a series of productions
in which there is really less to them
than meets the eye. *Easy Rider*, *The
Trip*, *Midnight Cowboy* and now *Za-
briskie Point* are cries of despair and
helplessness from a society that has
created its own problems and misery,
and now doesn't know how to extradi-
te itself from its own dilemma. Even so,
it's encouraging to know that America
is beginning to show some concern with
its own soul-searching. *Zabriskie Point*
is showing in an uncut version in the
GLC area and subject to minor cuts
elsewhere—it is perhaps significant that
the authorities were more concerned
about eroticism rather than any sub-
versiveness of ideas!

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BOOK REVIEW

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The hatred and contempt against
homosexuals in general has always been
less severe towards women, but this is

surely due to the fact that a patriarchal
society will always display permissive
attitudes towards slaves, women and
other lower mortals and inferiors. It is
also possible that many women, confus-
ing their biological function with their
sensual one, concealed their own sexual
needs even from themselves over much
longer periods than it would have been
possible for a male to do.

Dr. Robert Ollendorff has also proved
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Experience* that the shame and guilt
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word 'camp' is thought to have evolved
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Let no homosexual be in any doubt,
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legislative freedom is very slim indeed,
and it is well to remember that this path
towards liberation for sexual minorities
was first pioneered by the anarchist
presses of the world in their fearless and
worthy campaign for sexual liberation
in general, of which the homosexual part
was an integrated section.

Heterosexual pioneers of true sexual

LETTER

More on the Class Struggle

Dear Editors,

Part of the difference between Ian
Sutherland and myself seems to be in
definition of terms, but part is due to
what seems to be inconsistencies in
what he says.

He insists that I got him wrong,
when I took him to interpret the 'class
struggle' in the limited traditional sense,
and tells Dave Cunliffe and me to stay
out, 'ordinary folk don't dig us'. But
one of my original points was that many
'ordinary folk' (if we include all people
in a wage relationship with an employer,
as he says he does) won't dig him if
he uses terms like 'class struggle'. My
plea is for a diversification of approach,
which Ian Sutherland seems to deny
at the very moment that he claims to
be including all workers in his approach.

My analysis of violence being (moral
questions apart) counter-revolutionary
still stands. Ian Sutherland envisages
the possible need for violence in over-
coming *revanchist* capitalism, and simul-
taneously claims that he is talking of
a majority revolution. But if this ma-
jority is in at least some sense an
anarchist majority, then there will be
virtually no people to power the *re-
vanchism*; capitalism does not exist in
a vacuum, as he well knows. Moreover,
if the majority does resort to violence
(I am excluding chance sporadic out-
bursts), it will either have never been
an anarchist majority (in which case
an anarchist result is hardly likely) or
it will soon betray its own cause—either
way, some variant of 1917 would prob-
ably result.

But how to achieve the anarchist
majority? Well, Ian Sutherland is work-
ing in one way—but Dave Cunliffe, Jeff
Cloves and others are working in other
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Dave Cunliffe is apparently 'unread-
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'unreadable' is a subjective term: some
readers probably find detailed accounts
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'solitary contemplatives', etc., and then
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No, Ian, please be fair: you can't
have it both ways. If you seriously
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Heterosexual pioneers of true sexual freedom have always stood by those who must ever remain a minority in the general order of things, and the power of the State to interfere with the sexual happiness of its citizens must always be resisted at each and every turn. If it's 'queers' today—then who knows who it might be tomorrow?

G.L.

an anarchist result is hardly likely) or it will soon betray its own cause—either way, some variant of 1917 would probably result.

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MICHAEL SKAIFE D'INGERTHORPE.
Harrow, Middx.



All correspondence to
Peter Le Mare, 5 Hannaford Road,
Rotton Park, Birmingham 16

ANARCHIST FEDERATION of BRITAIN

The AFB information office will produce an internal bulletin. Comrades interested in its production are to meet in Birmingham on the first Sunday of each month. All groups will be informed in detail. Address all letters to:

Peter Le Mare, 5 Hannaford Road, Rotton Park, Birmingham, 16. Tel. 021-454 6871. Material that cannot wait for the bulletin to be sent to R. Atkins, Vanbrugh College, Heslington, York. The Contact Column in 'Freedom' is also available for urgent information.

Groups should send latest addresses to Birmingham. New inquirers should

write direct to them or to the AFB information office in Birmingham.

AFB REGIONAL GROUPS

There are now anarchist groups in almost every part of the country. To find your nearest group write to:

North West Federation: Secretary, Tom Howard, 163 Ryelands Road, Lancaster.

Cornwall: A. Jacobs, 13 Ledrah Road, St. Austell. (M. Ma. B.)

Essex & E. Herts.: P. Newell, 'Aegean', Spring Lane, Eight Ash Green, Colchester. (QM, FL.)

Surrey: G. Wright, 47 College Road, Epsom.

Sussex: E. Poole, 5 Tilsbury, Findon Road, Whitehawk, Brighton.

Yorkshire: Martin Watkins, 3 Marlborough Grove, Leeds, 2.

Scotland: B. Lynn, 12 Ross Street, Glasgow.

Wales: c/o P. L. Mare (address above).

N. Ireland: c/o Freedom Press.

S. Ireland: c/o P. L. Mare (address above).

University and Student Groups: c/o P. L. Mare.

(Abbreviations: M—meeting; Ma—magazine; B—badges; Q—Quarterly; FL—free leaflets)

Support our Comrades in Franco's Jails

THE STRUGGLE between the political prisoners and the Director General of Prisons goes on, despite the unequal nature of the contest. One is well aware that one is hitting one's head against a brick wall for much of the time, but what else is there to do? Can we resign ourselves to facts as they are?

All the actions carried out by the political prisoners have been caused by the fact that the Director General of Prisons will not apply conditional liberty. He is afraid that it will be dangerous for the regime.

The Directorate General has scored a great 'victory' in putting down the hunger strikes. These gentlemen held a meeting in the Ministry of Justice to congratulate themselves on it. The Inspector General, the famous Fernando

Arnao Garcia, better known amongst his colleagues as 'the Mule', and the sinister secretary to the Director General, Barrara, were awarded the Gold Medal of the Penitentiary Service for their 'success' in repressing the wave of hunger strikes.

Having taken part in these actions and lived through all the protests of the political prisoners, we find ourselves, now we are at liberty, more than ever obliged to press for moral and material aid to those in Franco's cells. We call for a pressure action that will oblige the Directorate General of Prisons to grant conditional liberty.

Now we must add that another group of seven comrades have been tried in Valencia under the law against 'brigandry and terrorism' which had been super-

seded by the creation of the Tribunal of Public Order. These comrades have received sentences varying between 20, 18 and 6 years. The Captain General of the region, apparently in disagreement with this, has sent the case to the Supreme Court for confirmation. Here again some form of pressure action is essential.

This shows that the only thing that can do anything positive is to do 'something' that will take international opinion into consideration. Especially now that the regime is anxious to gain prestige in the rest of the world and 'confidence' in it can be embarrassed. For this reason we who struggle in Spain ask you to support the activities of the prisoners and those who struggle against the Franco regime. This col-

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Faternally,

A GROUP

BLACK CROSS FOR letter it is obvious, do not live by be this is the point stres letter. We do not li Think!—if the sancti political prisoners we thirds would be set I ask you, if a prison is uncertain, is so c is the only way, then are free, stand bac crossed and do not

An Obituary

THE BLACK KNIGHT Anarchist Group wishes to announce the sudden passing away of the Bread and Circus Party. Ever since this strangely-named organisation and others like the All-Night Party appeared in Haringey purporting to be contesting three seats for the GLC elections, usually well-informed sources, observers and pundits have puzzled as to its parentage and purpose. It can now be confidently announced that the whole idea was a filthy anarchist plot by the above-mentioned group to disrupt the democratic process.

Originally we intended to put a hamster up as a candidate, but we decided to disrupt the election 'officially' by putting as many candidates up as possible and also by getting as much publicity as possible for libertarian ideas. Our aim obviously was to show the farcical nature of the political system and also to enjoy playing games with the bureaucrats, local papers and national press. Our 'political programme' below was a random mixture of ideas, some basically revolutionary and some farcical, thought up at one of our meetings.

HELP MUTATE THE GLC

Elastic Political Dog invites you to a great election happening with the rough and tumble, thrills and spills, sound of the greasepaint and smell of the politicians (undiluted). . . .

SEE ELASTIC DOG DEFY BULGE THE INCREDIBLE HAMSTER (BY COURTESY OF THE WEST MIDLAND GAS BOARD FORMATION DANCING TEAM).

Those expected not to be present are:—

Zorro
Archbishop Makarios
Sunny Greenhouse

- 3 Abolish licensing hours.
- 4 Arm policemen with lollipops, street maps, contraceptives and chicken legs.
- 5 Close Heathrow Airport in the interests of Foulness.
- 6 Abolish all traffic in Central London except public transport and bicycles.
- 7 Ban light tan boot polish under the Dangerous Drugs Act.
- 8 Turn the Stock Exchange into a theatre for people who like dressing up in bowler hats.
- 9 Turn Alexandra Palace into a hostel for mentally-distressed traffic wardens.
- 10 Paint all public conveniences, lamp-posts, electricity meters, etc., pink, white, orange or yellow.

Our public meetings, which did actually attract some straight members of the public, included candidates throwing ping-pong balls at the audience and all the candidates speaking at the same time. We also divided the audience into 'Left' and 'Right' and told them when to clap or boo, heckle or throw money. We formed an embryo government and passed the 'Laundry Bill' to alleviate the sad plight of laundrette-owners.

We played the whole politics game very much in the Provo/Yippee way, knowing that the press would immediately leap about, sticking flashbulbs up our nostrils and demanding to know who we were and what we stood for. Although they tried to contain us with trendy/liberal cliches, we put forward revolutionary ideas (by Harpo Marx out of Malatesta) which they had to print to get across why we were standing. We were attacked in the local paper as 'cranks', 'exotic characters' and (even better) as 'contempts of democracy', but gained a fair amount of local support and interest. As well as becoming

The New Terror

ON THE FIRST DAY of March, in the dark and desperate hours before the dawn, several small groups of Anarchists destroyed or damaged large quantities of Military conscription documents at the Minnesota central office of the 'Selective Service System' and at local draft offices in metropolitan Minneapolis and St. Paul.

Col. Robert P. Knight, director of Military conscription in Minnesota, on behalf of the partisans of the Right, announced to television, radio, and newspaper journalists that 'March draft notices already have been sent. But it will be difficult to carry out inductions after March'.

In three separate offices . . . the state headquarters, the Ramsey County office and the Hennepin County office . . . file records and draft registration cards were ripped, thrown, scattered and ceremoniously placed in massive piles more than five feet deep.

Essential office equipment was destroyed, and black paint (from aerosol cans) was sprayed on important documents.

The word 'Anarchy' was written on the walls of all three offices . . . hugely, with ceremonial decoration.

In the Hennepin County conscription centre, draft records were hauled out of open file cabinets and scattered in three office rooms and the boiler room. Most of the Hennepin County records were taken to an incinerator and burned. All file cabinets were damaged. Water from the boiler room was turned on (by smashing the appropriate valves and connections), heavily damaging the remaining documents. Water from a drinking-fountain (ripped from its pipe . . . with great effort, broken) was also used to soak and mutilate the conscription documents.

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All 1-A and 1-A documents along with ledger references, were destroyed. Boards 27 through 30 in Ramsey County and Local Boards in Ramsey County. All documents have been destroyed and probably put under conscription to the local boards has been at least two years.

To this day: the documents have not been caught and their terrorist activities continue to be victorious.

*This is the new terror and vicious attack on people, but specific concrete actions against

Who needs

Comrades,

In reply to Reg E. 'Who needs a trip?' clearly Reg does—but

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Those expected not to be present are:—

Zorro
Archbishop Makarios
Suzy Creamcheese
John Wayne
The Pied Piper
Princess Anne
The (present) Man in the Moon
Christiaan Barnard (or parts thereof)
Muffin the Mule
ad nauseam.

POLITICAL BEDSTEAD OF THE BREAD AND CIRCUS PARTY

- 1 Abolition of the use of money in London.
- 2 House the homeless in County Hall, Buckingham Palace, Centre Point and Haringey Civic Centre.

- 4 Arm policemen with lollipops, street maps, contraceptives and chicken legs.
- 5 Close Heathrow Airport in the interests of Foulness.
- 6 Abolish all traffic in Central London except public transport and bicycles.
- 7 Ban light tan boot polish under the Dangerous Drugs Act.
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P.S.—Students of elections might be interested to note that our six candidates (for three vacancies) got 959 votes in a 33% poll. We also of course claim the spoilt ballot papers, the unregistered and the other 67% of the electorate.

STEVE KIBBLE.

*Black Knight Anarchist Group,
Hornsey,
65 Cecile Park, N.8*

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In the state headquarters, another official (Maj. Lloyd Owen) proclaimed lyrically to the yellow press that 'unfortunately, I'd say it was beautiful. I'd say it was beautifully planned . . . unfortunately. We think that more than one person was involved'. Owen estimated

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PRESS FUND

April 1 to 13 inclus
Glasgow: J.M.B. £1
Sydney: H.M. 10/8;
Camberwell: Anon 1
2/-; Stoke: P.M.C. 1
£2; London, W.2:
N.W.2: D.S. £4; Sou
verhampton: J.K.W.
6/-; J.L.* 9/-; Bla
High Wycombe: R
D.H. 16/-; Taunton
don, N.W.3: T.M. 1
2/-.

A Poor Man's Guide to the General Election

Conservative: A Tory hates all trade unionists, students, strikers, long haired men, short haired men, coloured immigrants, people with foreign sounding names, demonstrators, pacifists, unmarried mothers, drug takers, homeless families, artists, socialists, poets, communists, pop musicians, anarchists, in fact anyone who isn't a Tory. A Tory loves his country while hating 90% of the people who live in it!

Labour: A Socialist loves workers and shows it by taxing them, loves peace but supplies Nigeria with arms, sings the praises of the brotherhood of man while

trading with South Africa, and kisses babies in England while gassing them in Ulster. A Socialist wants to remove the capitalists who exploit the workers for profit. He will replace this with state capitalism. He will also exploit the workers—but by act of Parliament.

Liberal: A Liberal will help the starving millions, coloured immigrants and the homeless by sending off a cheque every week. To say the least he is confused. While calling for decentralisation he extols the virtues of world government. A Liberal will go half way with anybody. His main election fear is that

he will win.

Communist: A Red is a bit of each. He will co-operate with anybody until the battle is won. Then he will shoot them. He condemns the Americans for their war in Vietnam—he condemns them all the way to Prague. The biggest threat to a communist is a communist.

All four hate anarchists. Anarchists write rude words across their ballot papers. That is naughty because it is against the rules of the game.

Love,

LARRY.

*Denotes Regular Co

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laboration should be both for the aid of prisoners and for economic support for activities against the regime.

Faternally,

A GROUP OF EX-PRISONERS.

BLACK CROSS FOOTNOTE: From this letter it is obvious that the prisoners do not live by bread alone, in fact this is the point stressed throughout the letter. We do not live by bread alone! Think!—if the sanctions imposed on the political prisoners were lifted, then two-thirds would be set free automatically. I ask you, if a prisoner, whose situation is uncertain, is so decided that action is the only way, then how can we, who are free, stand back with our arms crossed and do nothing.

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the damage at 'more than \$500,000'.

In these three separate offices . . . the state headquarters, the Ramsey County office and the Hennepin County office . . . the raids occurred at exactly the same time. Action was co-ordinated.

In the state headquarters, 35 typewriters were heavily damaged by bending the keys and then spraying the mechanism with black lacquer. Similar treatment was given to ten adding-machines and six calculators and a \$10,000 photocopying machine.

Black lacquer was also sprayed on register books and card files to obliterate the names and addresses of registrants. Many pages in the books were torn out and ripped to bits.*

All 1-A and 1-A delinquent draft files, along with ledger books and cross-references, were destroyed in Local Boards 27 through 48 in Hennepin County and Local Boards 87 to 98 in Ramsey County. All resisters and delinquents have been rescued from prosecution and probably prison. Any possible conscription to the Military from these local boards has been stopped for at least two years.

To this day: the criminal Anarchists have not been caught. They plan to continue their terrorist activities. They will be victorious.

"ALEX LEVASHOV".

*This is the new terrorism: not aimless and vicious attacks against innocent people, but specific and thorough and concrete actions against Statist property.

LETTER

Who needs a Trip?

Comrades,

In reply to Reg B's letter last week, 'Who needs a trip?' I suggest that quite clearly Reg does—but not acid—action.

The Cohn-Bendit quote about the revolution being born of joy not sacrifice sounds nice, but how much is it an excuse for a cop out? The revolution must be fun but flower power or acid or ego trips won't stop a tank. We must avoid the trap of hedonism just



Any book not in stock, but in print can be promptly supplied. Book Tokens accepted. Please add postage & cash with order helps.

Secondhand

We have a large stock of second-hand books. Please let us know what you want. This week's selection.

The Machinery of the Mind	Violet M. Firth	4/-
In the Eyes of the Law	C. Evelyn Miles & Dorothy K. Dix	4/-
Psycho-Analysis: a Brief Account of the Freudian Theory	Barbara Low	4/-
Suggestion and Mental Analysis	William Brown	5/-
This Have and Have-Not Business (1936)	Norman Angell	5/-
Successful Living	W. Béran Wolfe	4/-
This England (1933)	(ed.) Gerald Barry	5/-
The Case for Action	Innes H. Pearce & G. Scott Williamson	6/-
Three Modern Seers: Hinton, Nietzsche and Carpenter	Mrs. Havelock Ellis	4/-
The Structure of Morale	J. T. MacCurdy	6/-
The English People	D. W. Brogan	3/-
Morality Fair: Vagaries of Social Conduct (1955)	Geoffrey Williamson	6/-
Honest Doubt	Ernest J. P. Benn	6/-
The Bankruptcy of Marriage	V. F. Calverton	6/-
The Frightened Giant	Cedric Belfrage	6/-
Pain: Its Meaning and Significance	Ferdinand Sauerbruch & Hans Wenke	7/6
You and Your Brain	Judith Groch	10/-
The Right to Heresy	Stefan Zweig	8/6
The Human Brain	Isaac Asimov	7/6
This Shining Woman: Mary Wollstonecraft	George R. Preedy	10/-



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FREEDOM weekly at 9d.
and ANARCHY monthly at 3s.
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01-247 9249

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stultifying boredom of the political grey
men. What Reg says about the left
in London and their arsing around over
Ireland is quite true, just as his acknow-
ledgement of the help afforded us
by our few real friends (Reg included)
must be made. But because one is
hung up or pissed off in London is
no excuse for feeling sorry for oneself.
Let Reg's trip be to Ireland—where he's
always welcome. Who knows, maybe
he'll find that CS is a real trip—and
we do have fun as well as action.

10.4.70

JOHN BELFAST.



PRESS FUND

April 1 to 13 inclusive

Glasgow: J.M.B. £1/0/8; Hull: E.S. £3;
Sydney: H.M. 10/8; Surrey: B.P. 13/-;
Camberwell: Anon 10/-; Grantham: G.I.
2/-; Stoke: P.M.C. 1/8; Los Gatos: C.M.
£2; London, W.2: F.S. 10/-; London,
N.W.2: D.S. £4; Southall: D.S. 15/-; Wol-
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Are Children People?

WHEN I WAS younger I remember reserving some of my strongest feelings of contempt for that depressingly familiar character, the former revolutionary whom greater age and experience have shown the 'immature error of his ways'. Every reader of this paper will have been enraged by him in one form or another. He is the one who meets every proposition which hints at idealism with such responses as: 'I used to think like that when I was your age', or 'When you have a family to support you see things in a different light', or 'Life will soon cure you of those ideas', and so, drearily, on.

Projecting myself impossibly into the future I couldn't conceive of ever ending up like these smug, comfortable sellers-out and the implication in their fat statements that the whole human race was just like them, was probably, I realise now, the chief element in my scorn. I could quote them plenty of examples of men and women who had got older without their ideals ever having diminished. How could they have the cheek to pretend a patronising superiority over such people? Why couldn't they at least be honest enough

to admit their own feebleness or laziness rather than try to smear the ideals of more steadfast types?

This is the key to my present attitude towards 'backsliders', including myself. I still think that most of such persons' claims to a maturer appreciation of things are pathetic self-deception. For 'mature' one can safely substitute 'old', 'lazy', 'dispirited', etc. Nevertheless, I have less contempt now for the various pressures which make many people hide behind these self-defensive blinds and prominent among these pressures I would place children.

I've been reading anarchist literature regularly for about 14 years and yet I can't remember any account of an anarchist family or anything to give any idea of how an anarchist parent goes about bringing up his kids. And by that I'm not moaning the too obvious snide 'paradox' which suggests that the anarchist parent must brainwash his offspring along the road to libertarianism. I mean simply that I'd like to know how the average anarchist gets on with his kids.

Having written that, I anticipate at least one automatic response from the dogma machines. If you profess to be

an anarchist (it goes), why should you expect there to be any essential difference in your dealings with children and adults? Both are human beings and therefore entitled to be treated with respect, as equals, without condescension, etc. Now that's quite a satisfactory reply to give to, say, a headmaster who insists on all his pupils wearing uniform or to a father who won't let his son grow long hair but, applied in universal fashion, it has the absurdity of all theory. To give a few petty examples: I've had to drag my three-year-old kid forcibly away from picking up dog shit or from walking into the sea fully clothed or from hanging out of a top-floor window. The only claim to strict anarchist behaviour I can make is that on each occasion I did try persuasion and logic first. I can't accept that it would have been a sensible alternative to let her do what she wanted. Any parent, anarchist or otherwise, could supply a thousand trivial examples of the same sort. The disquieting thing is that one's behaviour as a parent seems to have nothing to do with social or political opinions. At times they seem to have as little relevance as there would be in quoting Kropotkin at a thunderstorm which had prevented one's going for a walk. A Socialist, Communist, Tory or Fascist father would not let his three-year-old daughter run freely across Oxford Street in the rush hour and neither would I. Perhaps the only difference would be that they might enjoy saying no.

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A MUCH-RESPECTED FIGURE of the Swedish anarchist movement, Carl Johan Björklund, has, at the age of 85, published the first part of his autobiography, entitled *Anarchist and Agitator*. However, Björklund has been much more than an agitator, he has been an excellent teacher as well. As an agitator he was, and still is, eloquent and logical, with a unique ability to captivate his audience. As an educator he has been instructive and inspiring. The anarchist and the syndicalist movements in the Scandinavian countries are greatly indebted to Björklund.

Björklund is the author of approximately thirty books, including biographical portraits of the pioneers of the international anarchist movements: Bakunin, Proudhon, Most, Landauer, etc. He has also written controversial treatises about Sacco-Vanzetti, Mooney-Billings, and other victims of the class struggle. As a sociologist he has contributed several books, about various aspects of social life. In his book *The Fight About the Film*, he reveals considerable knowledge about the film. He has also received quite some consideration as a pioneer in the field of film-sociology. Among his books I would mention *Fearless Knights of the Pen*, in which he has made an excellent and thorough analytical study of the radical

studied diligently everything connected with socialism and anarchism and became one of the most outstanding champions of anarchism in Sweden. In Sweden at that time the radical youth waged a bitter struggle against war and militarism. An intimate friend of Björklund, Rickard Almskoug, was arrested for refusing military service. Almskoug was sentenced to jail. He died in jail in suspicious circumstances. At the funeral Björklund delivered a rancorous speech, accusing the prison authorities of murder. The authorities answered the challenge with a four months' jail sentence.

Björklund's international contacts began in Germany where he stayed as a fugitive from justice. In Berlin he became acquainted with Rudolf Rocker, Max Nettlau, Gustav Landauer, Fritz Kater and many other prominent members of the anarchist movement in Germany. But he had to earn his living as a tile maker, and was therefore compelled to separate from his friends in Berlin in order to find employment. He applied for a position in Austria and was accepted. In Austria he encountered the internationally-known anarchist writer, Pierre Ramus. He also met Augustin Souchy, with whom he still has contact. During the war between Austria and Serbia the authorities arrested every suspicious character. As an active opponent against war and militarism, authorities in Vienna focused their attention on Björklund. He was arrested

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Carl Johan Björklund was born in the old university town, Upsala in 1884, and there he spent his childhood and his early youth. In spite of the fact that he was born in a university town, this coincidence had nothing to do with his education. Like Maxim Gorky he acquired his education through traversing the European Continent, working as a skilled artisan. Ever since he was able to read he was possessed by a passion and a thirst for knowledge. He was equally eager to engage in all kinds of activities. Before the age of puberty he became a salvationist and struggled heroically against the power of the Devil. It was probably in the Salvation Army that he became aware of his exceptional oratorical ability. However, like Barbara in Bernard Shaw's play, he discovered that the officers profited by utilizing the young blue-eyed idealists to run their dubious errands. This experience stimulated his already growing scepticism and turned him into an atheist.

At the age of seventeen Björklund left his native town and first traversed the country. After having roamed around for some time he settled down in the southern part of Sweden. He obtained a job in his trade in the historical town, Calmar. There he came in contact with the Labour movement and participated actively in the struggle to improve the conditions of the working class. He

studied diligently everything connected with socialism and anarchism and became one of the most outstanding champions of anarchism in Sweden. In Sweden at that time the radical youth waged a bitter struggle against war and militarism. An intimate friend of Björklund, Rickard Almskoug, was arrested for refusing military service. Almskoug was sentenced to jail. He died in jail in suspicious circumstances. At the funeral Björklund delivered a rancorous speech, accusing the prison authorities of murder. The authorities answered the challenge with a four months' jail sentence.

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Having returned to Sweden he once again was in the midst of the struggle. He lectured and agitated everywhere in the Scandinavian countries. But the Swedish authorities were not idle either, at every meeting he spoke at the hall was surrounded by a large police squad. After having played hide and seek with the cops for a while he was finally caught and arrested. In jail he found out that the treatment of political prisoners in Sweden was even worse than in Germany and Austria. A well-known member of the Swedish parliament, Fabian Mansson, exposed the prison authorities in Parliament for their infamous treatment of C. J. Björklund. A prison reform programme was the result.

Björklund had planned to go to Russia in order to get in personal contact with the hero of his youth and his much-admired teacher, Peter Kropotkin. He received a permit to visit Kropotkin and in December 1918 he boarded the train from Moscow to Dmitrov, where the 76-year-old anarchist and scientist resided. The last chapter of Björklund's memoirs is entirely dedicated to the visit and the conversation with Kropotkin. After having read the first part of Björklund's memoirs, one anticipates with great expectation the following parts. Björklund has an almost bottomless well to draw from.

E. LINDBERG.

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It might be objected that the examples I've given are of the 'crisis' type, akin to the 'Would you use violence if your mother were threatened with rape and disembowelling by 100 crazed Nazi troops?' sort of thing that they used to ask pacifist conscientious objectors. The difference is that situations every bit as baffling as those hypothetical fantasies actually do occur in one's everyday dealings with kids.

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THE NEW HOLY WAR

ARTISTS—I USE the word to cover writer, painter, film-maker, etc.—are often attacked for their lack of involvement in politics, politics usually of the left. This is irritating enough, although predictable in the usual run of left-wing press, but even more irritable, and depressing when it occurs in the anarchist press, examples of which crop up now and then in both *FREEDOM* and *Anarchy*. To me—and surely to anyone who chooses to call himself an anarchist—the individual conscience is of far greater value than the collective conscience. After all, it is the Catholic and Marxist churches that exhort us to flush our conscience down the shit-house pan for the greater 'ideal'. Man is the means, the end is myth.

I write firstly as a man, secondly as a writer and thirdly as an anarchist. The problem lies, or seems to, with those who regard themselves as anarchists first and foremost and men second, and it is these people—unfrothed Marxists?—I suspect who clamour for the artist to get his hands soiled in front-line action.

So—First: I am against a critique of art based solely on political conviction, as I am opposed to one based purely on aesthetic grounds. Both approaches are disastrous.

Secondly: The current cry for a fusion of art and politics, amounting almost to a new holy war, has led to turgid, uninspired crap with a fair sprinkling of smug self-righteousness. This is not to say that it cannot be done—in prose, Shaw, Brecht and Orwell have proved otherwise, but—

Thirdly: How successful have been their political intentions? Shaw lectured to a pretty rarified group, but what of

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I've tried not saying a direct 'No' to anything for the length of a day and the result was no more satisfactory for her or me: I felt like a dehumanised zombie and, paradoxically, nine 'Yeses' and one 'No' usually provoke a far more violent rebellion than one 'Yes' and nine 'Noes'. One realises that young kids see no necessity to act pleasantly when they feel awful. Agreeing to their unreasonable demands is just to be insensitive or phoney.

And then there is the question of play. There are some people who just love kids full-stop and could spend all their time entertaining them. There are others who like kids but have to know that a time will come when they'll be someone else's responsibility: this is the secret of a large number of child-lovers found among such groups as schoolteachers, grandmothers, play leaders, mothers-in-law, childless couples, etc. For most of us Granny was a beloved figure of our childhood: indulgent, untiring, always cheerful and lenient. Yet, if you consult your mother you'll probably find that Granny, in her day, was just as strict as she. The difference is that now, like visitors, her subconscious knows that, however awful the brats are, come a certain hour and she'll be rid of them. For the same reason schoolteachers are often far less irritable with the 30 kids they have to look after at school than with their own one or two at home. And for the same reason, in countries like Spain, where the family is still a strong institution, children are generally treated better since the responsibility for looking after them is divided among the various aunts, uncles and grannies.

I can't help feeling I would make a good anarchist grandfather, just as I am always a good anarchist visitor to friends who have children. Unfortunately it seems that with my temperament I must first pass through the Fascist father stage.

When I read back over what I've written, the whole thing appears tediously trivial with little relevance to anarchism. And yet, grandiose as it may sound, my little minicommune is continually suggesting to my conscience unwelcome parallels with the State. What am I, after all, but a benevolent dictator (arguably the worst kind)? My régime is based ultimately on violence, initially sometimes, too, and although my theoretical conscience approves of rebellion, my natural response to it is a sharp cuff. In fact, when my three-year-old daughter tells me at 9.30 p.m. that she won't go to bed, the righteous wrath of the oppressed wells up in my breast.

I can only hope that, unlike the Marxist state, I will eventually wither away.

TRISTAN.

Contact

Contact Column is for making contact! Use is free, but donations towards typesetting costs are welcome

Drug Dependents' Care Group Meeting on Thursday, April 23, at 6 Endsleigh Street, London, W.C.1, at 7.30 p.m. Short, formal meeting, followed by informal discussion and refreshments.

Anniversary Luncheon and Lecture.—Saturday noon, May 2, 1970. Richard Drinnon, author of *Rebel in Paradise*, is pleased to address us on 'Emma Goldman and Alexander Berkman and The Dream We Hark Back To'. Paul Avrich, author of *The Russian Anarchists*, consented to be chairman. At Tip Toe Inn, Broadway & 74th Street, N.Y.C., upper hall. Roast Chicken Luncheon served 1 p.m. sharp. Price \$5.00 to Sarah Taback, Libertarian Book Club, Box 842 General Post Office, New York 1, N.Y.

'Bit' publication. 'Arts Lab News Letter' 3/- including postage. Articles by Miles, Allen Ginsberg and interview with Robin Farquaharson. List of crash pads outside London and progressive schools. Obtainable at Bit, 141 Westbourne Park Road, W.11. Also obtainable: *Communes* (journal of Commune movement), 3/6.

Scottish Anarchists Meeting on Anti-Election Tactics at Mike Malet's, 138 Gt. Northern Road, Aberdeen. May 2 and 3. Write for details.

'The Fighting Mouse'. Projected Scottish anarchist magazine. Writers, sellers, and finance wanted. Contact Ian S. Sutherland, 8 Esslemont Avenue, Aberdeen, AB2 4SL.

Libertas Christi. West London Christians interested in discussing the theory and practical implications of Christian Freedom write: Francis Simons, Flat 1, 86 Hereford Road, London, W.2.

Ethical Society Meetings, Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, W.C.1 (admission free):

'New Frontiers in the Mind of Lewis Mumford', Peter Cadogan, B.A. Sunday, April 26 at 11 a.m.

'Peaceniks or Freedom Fighters', Roger Moody and others. Sunday, April 26 at 3 p.m.

A Reply to R. S. Peters.—A libertarian slam on this guru of the training colleges will soon be ready. Possible title: 'Clay, Plants, Rats or Persons?' Any trainee teachers please contact Keith Paton, 21 Victoria Street, Basford, Stoke on Trent, if you want a copy or think you may be willing to push it in your situation, please.

THE NEW HOLY WAR

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When I read back over what I've written, the whole thing appears tediously trivial with little relevance to anarchism. And yet, grandiose as it may sound, my little minicommune is continually suggesting to my conscience unwelcome parallels with the State. What am I, after all, but a benevolent dictator (arguably the worst kind)? My régime is based ultimately on violence, initially sometimes, too, and although my theoretical conscience approves of rebellion, my natural response to it is a sharp cuff. In fact, when my three-year-old daughter tells me at 9.30 p.m. that she won't go to bed, the righteous wrath of the oppressed wells up in my breast.

I can only hope that, unlike the Marxist state, I will eventually wither away.

TRISTAN.

THE NEW HOLY WAR

ARTISTS—I USE the word to cover writer, painter, film-maker, etc.—are often attacked for their lack of involvement in politics, politics usually of the left. This is irritating enough, although predictable in the usual run of left-wing press, but even more irritable, and depressing when it occurs in the anarchist press, examples of which crop up now and then in both *FREEDOM* and *Anarchy*. To me—and surely to anyone who chooses to call himself an anarchist—the individual conscience is of far greater value than the collective conscience. After all, it is the Catholic and Marxist churches that exhort us to flush our conscience down the shit-house pan for the greater 'ideal'. Man is the means, the end is myth.

I write firstly as a man, secondly as a writer and thirdly as an anarchist. The problem lies, or seems to, with those who regard themselves as anarchists first and foremost and men second, and it is these people—unfroked Marxists?—I suspect who clamour for the artist to get his hands soiled in front-line action.

So—First: I am against a critique of art based solely on political conviction, as I am opposed to one based purely on aesthetic grounds. Both approaches are disastrous.

Secondly: The current cry for a fusion of art and politics, amounting almost to a new holy war, has led to turgid, uninspired crap with a fair sprinkling of smug self-righteousness. This is not to say that it cannot be done—in prose, Shaw, Brecht and Orwell have proved otherwise, but—

Thirdly: How successful have been their political intentions? Shaw lectured to a pretty rarified group, but what of

Brecht, whose ambitions were greater, and whatever happened to Arnold Wesker?

Still, I'm not concerned with whether political art is a good tactical weapon or merely a sheer waste of time. But I am concerned about the idiot who rushes up to me, at my typewriter, and with loaded gun demands: And which side are you on, little comrade? If I don't shit myself with fright and can muster the courage, my answer will be: Man. But what will his be?

PETER GRAFTON.

Freedom Pamphlet No. 1

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Scottish Anarchists Meeting on Anti-Election Tactics at Mike Malet's, 138 Gt. Northern Road, Aberdeen. May 2 and 3. Write for details.

'The Fighting Mouse'. Projected Scottish anarchist magazine. Writers, sellers, and finance wanted. Contact Ian S. Sutherland, 8 Esslemont Avenue, Aberdeen, AB2 4SL.

Libertas Christi. West London Christians interested in discussing the theory and practical implications of Christian Freedom write: Francis Simons, Flat 1, 86 Hereford Road, London, W.2.

Ethical Society Meetings, Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, W.C.1 (admission free):

'New Frontiers in the Mind of Lewis Mumford', Peter Cadogan, B.A. Sunday, April 26 at 11 a.m.

'Peaceniks or Freedom Fighters', Roger Moody and others. Sunday, April 26 at 3 p.m.

A Reply to R. S. Peters.—A libertarian slam on this guru of the training colleges will soon be ready. Possible title: 'Clay, Plants, Rats or Persons?' Any trainee teachers please contact Keith Paton, 21 Victoria Street, Basford, Stoke on Trent, if you want a copy or think you may be willing to push it in your situation, please.

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